

received some help from some people who, as you know, have contributed to the legal expense fund.

But if I stay healthy, I'll be able to pay my bills and earn a pretty good living. I'm far more concerned about the legal bills of other people that are much—they're smaller legal bills, but for them it's a lot of money. So I'm a lot more concerned about them than myself.

Yes, sir. One more.

#### *Budget Negotiations*

*Q.* Could you clarify something, sir? Some of your answers today seem to suggest that you might agree with Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Dole that it might well take another election to resolve this whole budget deal.

*The President.* No, I disagree with that. I completely disagree with that.

*Q.* So you believe then, sir, that this is not going to go on and on and on. I mean, can you predict right now that by the State of the Union Address—

*The President.* Let me just say that if it's up to me, I will do everything I can to keep it from going on and on. That is, we know you have now two plans that the Congressional Budget Office has certified. You just have to take my word for it, because we promised not to discuss the negotiations, but we've moved closer together. We are not that far apart on the money. As a percentage of the total monies that will be spent in the categories at issue, we probably are warring over less than 2 percent now. But in terms of the policies and the human impact, the potential is very great in that money that's left. So there are policy differences left.

Now, what I'm saying to you is we owe it to the American people to pass a balanced budget deal and to do it now, because we have both identified more than enough savings to do it and to have the tax cut. We should agree on everything we possibly can. Then those things we can't we should defer to the next election. But when the voters vote in the next election they should have no doubt that their budget is going to be balanced and that Medicare and Medicaid and education and the environment are going to be protected; that the country is going to be stronger, that we are moving in the right direction and that here are these two very different sets of views about how we can best meet the challenges of the future. You decide, make your judgment, and you're still in the driver's seat. But meanwhile, we did what we were hired to do and what we said we would do, which is to balance the budget.

We have to adjourn, but let me just say this before I quit—where's Charlie Tasnadi? Where are you? Where are you? This is his—after 32 years working for AP, this is his very last Presidential press conference. Thanks for doing a great job. Let's give him a big hand. *[Applause]* I'm not sure you're old enough to retire, but there are some days when I can understand why you decided to. *[Laughter]*

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President's 113th news conference began at 4 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

## Teleconference Remarks to Ohio Democratic Caucuses *January 11, 1996*

I want to say hello to all of you in Ohio, and especially—*[applause]*—can you hear me? *[Applause]* That's great.

I want to thank your party chair, David Leland, and Senator John Glenn and your former party chair, Jim Ruvolo, for all of your hard work in organizing tonight's caucuses. And I want to thank all of you for signing on to help us tonight.

We've got people there, I know, from all across Ohio: in Cleveland and Greenville; in Columbus and New Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Waverly; in Dayton, where the Bosnian peace agreement was made; in Marion, Toledo, and Milan; in Youngstown and Springfield; in Canton and Mentor and Akron and Lorain. To all of you, thank you very much.

You all know that Ohio is very special to me. The Ohio primaries put me over the top

on the road to the Democratic nomination. And Ohio's delegates put me over the top for the nomination at the convention in New York City in 1992. And of course, on November 4th, 1992, it was the electoral votes of the State of Ohio that put me over the top in the electoral college. So I know how much I owe to the State of Ohio and to all of you in particular. And I thank you for everything you have done and for your commitment to help us in the months ahead.

Every American knows that we are living in a time of great change. We're moving toward a new century. We're moving from the industrial to the information and technology age. We're moving from the cold war to the global village. This is a time of immense possibility and great challenge for our country.

I think all of you know that when I ran for President it was to address these challenges and to take advantage of these possibilities; to restore the American dream; to make the American people a stronger community; and to preserve our leadership as a great force for peace and freedom around the world. And we've done that with a simple strategy: grow the economy; give the American people a smaller, better Government; and restore mainstream values in our national life.

If you look at the Ohio economy, if you look at the national economy, we've cut the deficit in half. We've expanded trade to record levels. We've invested in the education of the American people and their technological future. And look what we've got: almost 8 million jobs, a 15-year high in homeownership, a 27-year low in the combined rates of unemployment and inflation. Unemployment is down in Ohio from 7 percent to under 5 percent. In Ohio, you've got almost 300,000 new private sector jobs. And the debt has been cut over \$15,000 for every family of four in Ohio.

We changed the way this Government works. Do you know there are more than 200,000 fewer people working for the Federal Government than there were when I became President, thanks to the work the Democrats did to make Government more effective and fairer?

And most important of all, we're being more true to our values. We passed a tough crime bill, and that helped people all across America to bring the crime rate down. We've given States all over America the freedom to move people from welfare to work. And the welfare

rolls are down. The food stamp rolls are down. The poverty rolls are down. The teen pregnancy rolls are down. These are things the American people did, but our policies, the crime bill, the welfare reform, they have helped.

You know we have challenges ahead, but the only way we can meet them is to keep moving in the direction that we're going—and I know that everyone in Ohio must be so proud that Ohio was the place, with the eyes of the world watching, where the peace in Bosnia was made—to go with the progress that our country has made in the Middle East, in Northern Ireland, and reducing the nuclear threat. That's a record we can all be proud of, a record we can all be proud to run on and run with, and embrace and bring people to the Democratic Party with.

Now, if you look at this budget fight we're having in Congress today, it's another example of what I've been working for since 1993 when I became your President. I want to balance the budget. If it weren't for the debt run up in the 12 years before I became President, the interest payments on that, we'd have a balanced budget today. I have worked hard in good faith to reach an agreement with the Congress. But you know, this is not about numbers. We have already identified more than enough cuts to balance the budget and give a modest tax cut. This is about whether we're going to protect Medicare, Medicaid, our investments in education, our environment, whether we're going to protect working families from having their taxes increased while others get a tax cut. That's what I'm fighting for, for an America in the future that you can be proud of, that will be worthy of the support that I received from the people of Ohio.

I want every child in the State of Ohio and in the United States to be able to look forward to a brighter future. That's what I'm working for. I think you can go out in the State and say, "Look at where we were in 1992; look at where we are today; look at where we have to go." If you'll do that, we'll work together, we'll win a victory, but more importantly, the people of our country will win a victory.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:52 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.